

Smoke Signal

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Co-Presidents: Linda & André van der Valk

November 2016, Issue #5

Editor: Ann Vincent

Co-Presidents' Message

By Linda & André van der Valk

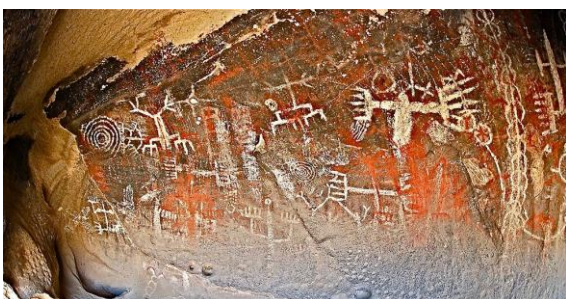
Pioneer Day was a great success. Everyone had a great time and the nicest thing was to introduce the children to the Chores of Yore. The children seemed to really enjoy it. I know Ann is thanking everyone who helped with the event but I would like to especially thank Ann Vincent for being our event chair and putting on such a great event. We should also thank Ray Vincent for his great job of supervising the parking and supervising set up and clean up. Ray not only supervises but gets in there and does a lot of the heavy work himself. A big thank you to Councilmember Englander for providing the shuttle bus for the event. I would also like to thank Jelena Csanyi for working with me on the display in the museum. We always have a good time working on the display together.

The remediation of the park is ongoing and hopefully the large equipment work will be done at the end of November. Then will come the landscaping. It will be nice to bring the kids, families and others back to the park.

In the last newsletter I forgot to mention that we had purchased an energy efficient 14 cubic foot refrigerator and put in a new linoleum floor in the cottage kitchen and bathroom. The money that was used was donated by the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council. The Historical Society would like to thank the CNC for helping us with these special funds for the acre.

I cannot believe that the holidays are just around the corner. We hope that everyone has a very safe and happy Holiday Season.

Linda and André



Chatsworth Historical Society Board of Directors 2016-2017	
Co-Presidents	Linda & André van der Valk
Treasurer.....	Jim Van Gundy
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Director-at-Large.....	Linda Dunham
Honorary Member.....	Bea Berman
Honorary Member.....	Elaine Campbell

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Nov. 15, General Meeting – 7:00 pm



H-1 Engine Hot Fire Test in Canyon Area - 1967 (1 of 2)

**The History of Rocketdyne
LOCATION at the Homestead ACRE**

Ray Vincent of the Chatsworth Historical Society will present the

history of Burro Flats, Rocketdyne and the Santa Susana Field Lab. Early Chumash life, the Burro Flats Cave Painting, ranching and movie history will also be discussed.

Those of us who lived here in the 50s, 60's and 70's recall the sounds and sites of the rocket testing that took America into the Space Race.

**Chatsworth Historical Society
Christmas Party - Members Only
December 13, 7:00 PM – Tuesday**

Please join us as we celebrate the holidays at the home of André and Linda van der Valk.

10524 Eton Avenue, Chatsworth
the Christmas Party is limited to MEMBERS ONLY.

Open House

The Homestead Acre is open to the public the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 pm.
December 4th Sunday Open
January 1st Sunday – Closed due to Holiday

DOCENT DOINGS at the ACRE:

Our docents keep busy with projects throughout the year. We meet every Wednesday morning 9-noon.

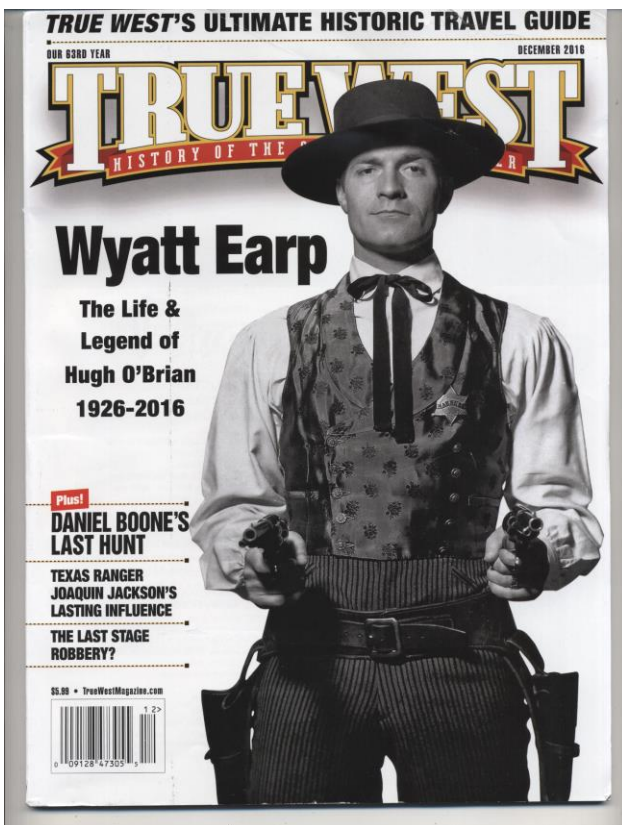
OUT IN THE GARDEN: Annette and Karyne can be found dead-heading roses and hand watering plants as needed every Wednesday morning. If you need some outdoor fresh air therapy, come join them!

IN THE MUSEUM: Linda van der Valk is continuously working with the items donated to the museum by our members and the community.

IN THE COTTAGE: An inventory project is underway to confirm and learn more about the items on display and their history so we can provide more information on our tours.

DOCENTS ARE NEEDED: Help guide guests through the museum and cottage. If you would like to learn the history of our community and help share it with others, then contact us for more information at chatsworthhistory@gmail.com.

In Remembrance of Hugh O'Brien, who passed away at the age of 91. He spoke to our Chatsworth Historical Society in March 2011.



8M Color Movie Film of the 1964 Chatsworth Parade.

Donated by Faith Golden whose family shot the film footage. This would be the first Year that Chatsworth High School participated. The school was formed in 1963 and graduated the first class in June of 1964.

We have newspaper clippings from a June 18, 1964 Chatsworth Citizen paper describing the parade plans and who to watch for.

“Grand Marshall will be Allan Jones riding his Tennessee Walker, and the six division marshals will be: Hazel Kirkpatrick, Neal Robertson, Joan Robertson, Lucky Carson, Mrs. Jeanne Cummisky and Lee Harbottle, who will be mounted on Harvest Supreme, a famous son of The Harvester, the great palomino American saddlebred owned by Edna Fagan of Chatsworth.

Honorary participants in the parade will be: Amanda Blake, noted TV actress; Angela Cartwright of the Danny Thomas Show; Veronica Cartwright, A TV and movie star in her own right; Gloria Winters, Penny of Sky King; Rudy Hansen, new handsome folk singer; Thomas D. Shepard, Councilman Third District; The fabulous Y-Knot Twirlers and Miss Lisa Benson “Little Miss San Fernando Valley.”

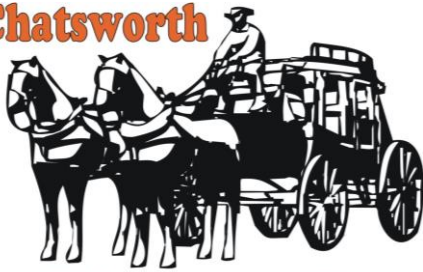
Their complimentary cars have been arranged for by members of the local Jaycees.

Chatsworth High School Band and Drill Team of 135 young men and women led by Irvin A. Pope, director, will perform and will be accompanied by the Prom Queen Diane Kinsman and her princesses, Joyce Burkhart, Cathy Yates, Cherie Haheault and April dePaul. This band will be one of eight in the parade.”

Code of the West

- 1) Live each day with courage.
- 2) Take pride in your work.
- 3) Always finish what you start.
- 4) Do what has to be done.
- 5) Be tough, but fair.
- 6) When you make a promise, keep it.
- 7) Ride for the brand.
- 8) Talk less and say more.
- 9) Remember that some things aren't for sale.
- 10) Know where to draw the line.

<http://cowboylethics.org/cowboy-ethics/>



Pioneer Day

2017 Pioneer Day Recap...is intended to thank all of the members and friends who participated making this such a successful event! It is also intended to create a record of all the things we did at Pioneer Day in 2016 and who did them. If I leave anyone out, please let me know.

We will start with the weather...lower temperatures, perfect, no wind!

If it was not for the cooperation of the construction crew working on the park, we would not have had our parking lot area available. They scheduled around our event and gave us a freshly leveled lot to park on. It was great with no gopher holes to stumble over.



Dianne Kartiala, Elaine Campbell, Jelena Csanyi, and Gloria Benedetti

Councilman Englander's office provided the Shuttle Bus service to and from the Train Depot, a necessity for our overflow parking.

The purpose of the Pioneer Day event is to educate our community about the history of Chatsworth. Our museum was staffed with docents guiding guests through the timeline of photos and artifacts on display. Our Hill-Palmer Cottage tours gave a glimpse of early pioneer life here on the Hill Family Homestead. Our docents providing tours for the day included Dianne Kartiala, Jelena Csanyi, Bea Berman, Gloria Benedetti, Jan Gruenwald and Nadia Harding. These wonderful volunteers share the stories told that keep our history alive. Set up is always a challenge. However, this year we again had the help of a group of young men from Rancho San

Antonio Boys Town. They worked with Sheriff George to set up his western display and assemble his jail. El Camino Real High School JNROTC arrived in force to help setup tables chairs and canopies. Boy Scouts (Richard Anderson and his sons) also joined us to manage our recycling, setting out the trash and collection containers. Starting the day out with everything in place makes it so much easier when we open the gates to the vendors on Sunday morning.



Winner of the Halloween Quilt



Lawrence Middle School Leadership Students

Carol Lucas and Donna Nachtrab greeted our vendors at set up and John Luker, Bob Dager and Jim Van Gundy gathered a few additional volunteers to raise the canopies to get things started. Our parking lot was already busy with our vendors and non-profit groups arriving. Volunteers from Lawrence Middle School helped with traffic control under the supervision of Tom Nachtrab and Ray

Vincent. The Lawrence students provided a great service loading push carts and carrying items for the vendors. The vendors at the end of the day are always quick to praise the students that have helped them in and out of the event. Our Chores and Games of Yore were entirely managed by the Lawrence Middle School Leadership class. Crafts and activities are donated by members of the community and the students do a great job learning and teaching the skills. This year we also had students learning to fingerprint with Marcia Chopp, who organized a booth to allow kids and adults to see their finger prints...then take them home with them as a record if ever needed. Vanessa Waters at the Santa Susana Mountain Parks Association booth helped students show adults and kids how to collect native plant seeds and package them to go. The Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana State Park provided sand painting. As usual, the Quilting

for Others booth had large crowds of children of all ages making their own quilts from precut fabric. All of those that participated in the quilting earned a chance to win a Halloween Quilt made for the event. We brought out our coffee grinders and found that grinding coffee was a hit along with our telegraph station vs. texting.

A new activity teaching stamping with fruits and vegetable shapes with paint, was created and donated by volunteers at My Creative Outlet through Martina Turner. Over 90 aprons were sewn from donated material to create this activity. Beverly Victoria Martin-sewing, Keala Carpenter-sewing,



Annette and Karyn – Plant Sale

Melinda McBride-sewing, along with Thuy Pham, Ursula Janovsky and Martina Turner who also did the sewing and worked the day of the event.

Our Pioneer Day always includes our plant sale and bake sale. This year Annette Campbell and Karyne Ventris ran the plants sale while Loretta Sandoval with the assistance of Kathy Underwood, Pam Perram and Beverly Manasse sold a record number of baked goods all donated by Loretta, Pam, Beverly, Barbara Pampalone, Bea Berman and Cherie Oseth.

This year the van der Valk family (all generations) managed the Snack Bar with help from Gary Bercow and Rod Sandoval.



Our information booth just inside the front gate was hosted by long time docents Elaine Campbell and Zena Thorpe. Member Donna Boswell stepped in to handle our donated afghan raffle and assist with all the surprise challenges, lost & found etc... Janis Heiden and Irene Nalbandian spent the day running the entrance gate where we managed to bring in a record entry based on receipts. Linda Dunham assisted this year with the students from Lawrence while taking action photos for our records of the event. Photos were also donated by Diana Sprout, Martina Turner and John Luker.

Donna Nachtrab and Carol Lucas ran the event while I had the opportunity to meet and greet many of the vendors and groups that I usually only work with while making reservations for spaces. We had over 40 organizations and vendors that participated. An extra thanks goes to Standing Bear's Trading Post, Wayne Christensen who demonstrated leather tooling and provided the staff to help everyone stamp leather and to Pat Keene at Keene Engineering for bringing the gold panning team and donating the gold for the event. And also a huge thanks to Dr. and Nita Standke for the blacksmithing and baking activities. Our event has grown and we owe it all to the various groups who make it fun and exciting for the kids and adults to participate.

Thank You



Clean up crew from El Camino Real HS JNROTC



Dr. Standke working at the forge



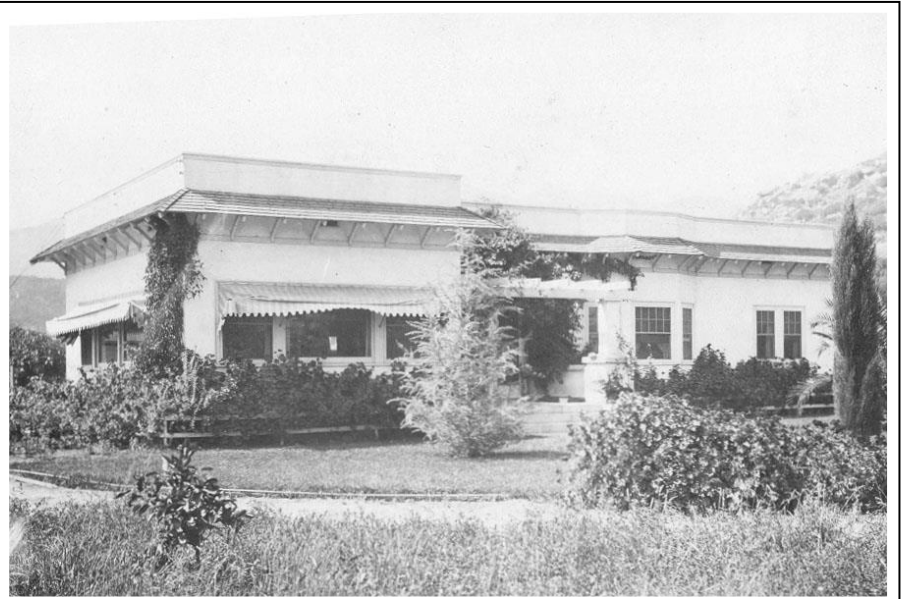
Nita Standke Baking

1918 Wilson House--10921 Old Santa Susana Pass Road

Searching census records and Ancestry.com we were able to trace the descendants and learn more about this home located at 10921 Old Santa Susana Pass Road. This area is currently slated for development of 20 homes (referred to locally as the Bee Canyon project); but the developer plans to renovate this historic house and make it a part of the new development.

Henry and Georgia Wilson built their home in 1918.

The Wilson's had two children and lived at 10921 Santa Susana for about 10 years before the property was sold. We found a great article on the Wilson



Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce collection 1920 photograph



The ranch house garage and barns are centered in the front looking west from Stoney Point. The newly planted lemon orchard planted on the left and the fields for farming on the right and behind the house. *Thompson Collection*

family 50th anniversary. The couple married in 1908 in Wichita, Kansas and moved to Pasadena and then Glendale for a short period of time. They then became one of the first families to pioneer the San Fernando Valley where they owned a lemon ranch in Chatsworth for eight years. At this time Henry Wilson was the sole distributor of Frigidaire refrigerators for the whole valley area. According to the article, the depression caused the family to move to a smaller vacation beach house they owned and sell the ranch. Mr. Wilson was then in the refrigeration repair business for the next 20 years.

What is interesting about the house is that it is in very good condition for a home almost 100 years old.



This view of the house looking north from the lemon orchard shows the garage on the left with a small child's playhouse in front of it. *Thompson Collection*



Harriet was born in 1915 and attended Chatsworth Park Elementary School *Thompson Collection*

It is eligible for Historic status since it has not been remodeled. It still has the louvered kitchen windows, original tiled bathrooms and the original window casings that hold the ballast weight to lift and lower the windows easily.

We wish to thank grandson Gary Thompson (son of Harriet), who shared his family photos of their lemon citrus ranch. We were able to contact Gary through Ancestry.com.

Soldiers at the Tunnels during World War II

With great respect to our Veterans....here are some who served in Chatsworth!

Some of our World War II veterans were involved in home security at a temporary base located in Chatsworth. Bill Schepler's notes indicate that they had a base on the southwest corner of Topanga and Devonshire across from the school, and photos below also show a temporary base north of Devonshire near the railroad tracks.



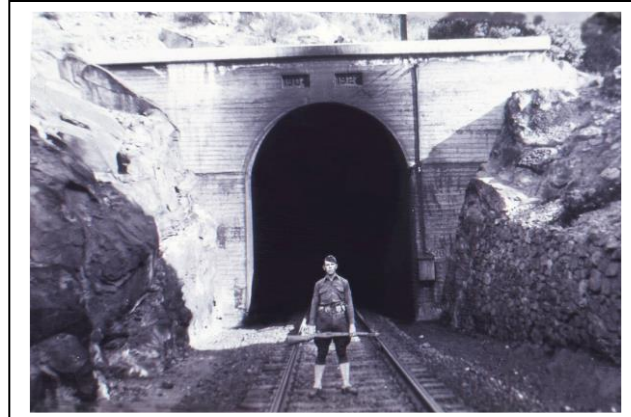
Guarding the Chatsworth train tunnels WWII. East side of Tunnel 28
Chatsworth Historical Society Collection

The 160th regiment was established at Los Angeles, California, on March 3, 1941 and moved to Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif. within two weeks. The regiment trained there for over a year as part of the 40th Division. During that time members of the unit were assigned to guard our train tunnels here in Chatsworth.

According to Ken Ditto, son of the late Hugh Ditto of the 160th regiment, he surmised that guarding the

tunnels was a temporary assignment/field exercise. They probably would take a squad at a time from San Luis Obispo for 3, 4 days, maybe a week at a time and bivouac, then rotate them back to SLO. The tent in the picture would support non-permanent facilities, plus it would be a quick ride down the rails from SLO, even being trucked down would only have taken a few hours.

Ken shared the photos below of soldiers visiting the recreation room/garage at the family home on 22101 Tulsa during their off duty hours. Ken's mother Virginia Graves married Hugh Ditto from regiment 160.



Guarding the Chatsworth train tunnels WWII. East side of Tunnel 28. *Chatsworth Historical Society Collection*



View of water tower on Devonshire and tracks from tent. *Ditto Family Collection*



160th Regiment soldiers off duty at the Graves home.
Ditto Family Collection



160th Regiment soldiers off duty at the Graves home.
Ditto Family Collection

World War II - Veterans Acknowledged by Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce May 31, 1945

Several years ago, we were presented with a copy of an invitation to a special unveiling of a scroll at 21712 Devonshire Blvd. honoring the men and women of Chatsworth who served in World War II. We did not have enough information to know what the scroll looked like until we found a photo in one of Irving Bibo's scrapbooks. In the picture below the scroll is mounted on the outside of the Lombardi Building. The Lombardi building was located on the southwest corner of Devonshire and Owensmouth.

Irving was a proud member of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce and served in the Ground Observation Corps. The Ground Observation Corps were responsible for manning the towers and watching for aircraft here in Chatsworth.



PROUDLY WE HAIL—As Old Glory billowed to the breeze, an honor roll of Chatsworth men and women in uniform was unveiled in a solemnly patriotic ceremony Saturday afternoon in front of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce building. Among those active in preparation of the program were, left to right, S. MacFarlane Anderson, P. W. Pope, treasurer of the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce; David E. Fulwider, president of the Chamber; Irving Bibo, member of the program committee, and John Pickering, secretary of the Chamber.

Chatsworth Dedicates Roll of Honor

Weather favored citizens of Chatsworth Saturday when, with colorful and solemn ceremony, they dedicated a roll of honor to more than 200 of their number in the armed forces.

The homey little west Valley town played host to people from all parts of the Valley who came to witness the unveiling of an elaborate metal scroll, with the honored names, nine of them with gold stars, that was hung on the Chamber of Commerce building.

It was in front of that building that the ceremony took place, be-

ginning with stirring music by the Birmingham General hospital band, and closing with the benediction by Father Hurley of "Our Lady of the Valley Church," Canoga Park.

SACRIFICE AND VALOR

Following a welcome to visiting organizations, including Boy Scouts from Van Nuys, by Maj. Ralph Slane, Grand Marshall, and the introduction of David E. Fulwider, president of the Chamber of Commerce, as chairman of the day, the crowd was led in a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The sacrifice and valor of men and women in uniform were lauded

in the dedicatory address by Lloyd P. Fuller, president of the West San Fernando Valley Associated Chambers of Commerce. Following his speech, the honor roll was unveiled to the view of the throng which was led by Ray Orton, president of the Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce, in singing the National Anthem.

Assisting President Fulwider of the Chamber of Commerce in directing the affair were John R. Pickering, secretary of the Chamber, P. W. Pope, treasurer; Irving Bibo, member of the program committee, and A. MacFarlane Anderson.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
C. W. RIDGEON
J. M. LOVE
GEO. W. CONLEY
ELWOOD E. PICKERING
LIONEL BARRYMORE
H. C. HEYNEBORN
IRVING BIBO

CHATS WORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
P. O. BOX 134
CHATS WORTH, CALIFORNIA

May 31, 1945.

DAVID E. FULWIDER, PRESIDENT
R. A. AHLSTROM, VICE-PRESIDENT
JOHN R. PICKERING, SECRETARY
P. W. POPE, TREASURER

Chatsworth Historical Society

Virginia Watson Museum & Gift Shop

The following items are available for sale during Open Houses on the first Sunday of the month. To arrange to purchase items at other times, email chatsworthhistory@gmail.com to make arrangements for payment and shipping, if necessary.

CHATSWORTH HISTORY by Virginia Watson	\$10.00
CHATSWORTH PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL The First 100 Years by Ioline Cleveland	\$10.00
WINDOW INTO THE PAST by William Schepler	\$10.00
QUIET ON THE SET by Robert Sherman	\$25.00
OUR PIONEER MOTHER As told to Lenora Johnson MacDonald	\$10.00

Can we Email our newsletter to you?

In an effort to reduce costs, save paper, and provide you with a color copy, we now email newsletters to those of you that have given us an email address. However, we also continue to send you a snail-mail copy until you advise us not to. Please email us at chatsworthhistory@gmail.com to stop future newsletter mailings and save us some money. And also please email us to provide your email address. Thanks!

Wondering if your Dues are Due?

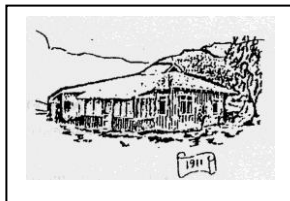
For those receiving email only newsletters, we will advise you by email when your dues are due.

For snail mail, if you have an asterisk at the end of your name on the mailing label, your dues are due.

Please use the form below to renew your Membership. And if your neighbor is not a member yet, pass this newsletter on to them and invite them to join.

CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership Form



Your membership helps support our Homestead Acre and the educational and historical programs we provide for our community. Members receive our quarterly newsletters, and receive invitation reminders regarding our monthly programs and annual events – Rose Pruning, the Garden Festival, Membership Roundup, and Pioneer Day. Please mail this form with your annual membership dues and/or contribution made payable to:

Chatsworth Historical Society, 10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311
chatsworthhistory@gmail.com 818-882-5614 www.historicalsocieties.net

- Yearly: New Member Renewal
Life Membership: Individual \$15.00 Family \$20.00 Organization \$20.00
 \$ 125.00

NAME _____ Phone: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____ Email: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

Special Interest / Expertise: _____

Reminder: If you got this mailed to you, an asterisk on your label means your dues are due!